

The Air War College Grand Strategy Program

- A more academically rigorous program shaped by the same objectives as the standard AWC course, but designed to meet the requirements of the “underserved” 5 percent of the student body who seek a more challenging academic experience
- The GSP seeks to meet the increasing requirement for USAF/Joint officers possessing advanced strategic, analytic, and critical thinking skills
- Created in 2010, the GSP offers highly motivated Air War College students a unique opportunity to prepare for the tough challenges of senior leadership in tomorrow’s increasingly complex security environment
- Focused on developing strategic vision and connecting it to operational art, GSP students explore the theory & practice of the strategic art, the challenges posed by strategic-level leadership and innovation, the relationship between the military instrument of power and national political objectives, and the interplay of global and regional security trends

Program Structure

- Curriculum replaces ~80% of the core AWC program and lasts the entire academic year, with a greater emphasis placed on the roots and development of strategic and critical thought
- GSP courses include The Foundations of Strategy—Plus, the Theory and Practice of Strategy, National Security Policy, Campaign Design and Execution, and Global Security
- GSP students:
 - Fully participate in the core Joint Strategic Leadership, Regional and Cultural Studies program and National Security Forum
 - Receive full SDE and JPME-II credit
 - Perform focused research on a CSAF topic of interest: *“What are the strategic implications of the recent US strategic rebalancing toward Asia?”*
 - Participate in the Hap Arnold Lecture Series and present research results at civilian universities
 - Participate in several wargames outside the core curriculum, including opportunities for a USAF Futures Game & OSD Office of Net Assessment Game

Who Can Apply?

- The GSP is limited to 12 volunteer students, but is open to all students in the degree program (civilian or military), including Joint and International officers

Who should apply?

Students with:

- A keen interest in an academic challenge that requires more reading and writing than the core curriculum
- A desire to challenge themselves mentally and who want to develop their critical thinking and analytic skills more fully through a deeper engagement with the historical roots of strategic thought
- Prior attendance at SAASS, SAMS, JAWS, etc. is NOT required, but the program may appeal to ASG graduates

How to Apply

- Submit a single-page essay to Colonel Ray O’Mara (raymond.omara@maxwell.af.mil) or Colonel Mark Erickson (mark.erickson@maxwell.af.mil) NLT 16 July 2013 answering the following question:
“Why do you want to join the GSP?”
- Include resume/bio/SURF
- Contact Colonel Ray O’Mara (334-953-6506/DSN 493, raymond.omara@maxwell.af.mil) or Colonel Mark Erickson (334-953-4387/DSN 493, mark.erickson@maxwell.af.mil) for more details

Key Dates

- 16 July 13 Application essay due
- 8-22 July 13 Admission interview period (if required)
- 24 July 13 Program selections announced
- 25 July 13 GSP and AWC programs begin

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Grand Strategy Program Contacts

Colonel Ray O'Mara
Chairman, Department of Strategy
Room 1017a; 334-953-6506
raymond.omara@maxwell.af.mil

Colonel Mark Erickson
Course and Seminar Director
Room 1020a; 334-953-4837
mark.erickson@maxwell.af.mil

Grand Strategy Program Faculty

Foundations of Strategy—Plus
Colonel Mark Erickson, Room 1020a
334-9534837

Theory and Practice of Strategy
Dr. Chris Hemmer, Room 1202
334-953-7676

Theory and Practice of Strategy
Dr. Alex Lassner, Room 1015
334-953-7594

National Security Policy
Dr. John Schuessler, Room 1018c
334-953-7632

Campaign Design and Execution
Dr. Bert Frandsen, Room 2007
334-953-8176

Global Security
Dr. Stephen Burgess, Room 1205
334-953-7076

Wargames and Practicums
Mr. Harry Foster, Bldg 1451
334-953-4749
Colonel Ray O'Mara, Room 1017a
334-953-6506



Air War College Grand Strategy Program Academic Year 2014

